(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, sir.

(c) and (d) 1,50,000 M.Ts of Crude Sunflower seed or safflower oil or fractions thereof was available under Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) for 2004-05. As per recommendation of Exim Facilitation Committee (Inter-Departmental Committee constituted in DGFT), 1,44,000 M.Ts was initially allocated to State Trading Corporation of India Ltd (STC) and 6000 M.Ts to National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED). Thereafter, as per the order dated 01.10.2004 of High Court of Delhi, and in supersession of previous allocation 96207.00 M.Ts was reallocated to STC and 53793.00 M.Ts to NAFED in proportion to the quantity applied for by them for further distribution among the applicants who applied through them.

Patent Amendment Bill

998. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to modify the Patent Act during the Winter Session of Parliament;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware that there are a lot of apprehensions in the domestic pharmaceutical and chemical sectors about the proposed amendment; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to address those apprehensions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (d) The Patents Act, 1970 is required to be amended, effective from January 01, 2005 in order to introduce product patent regime for inventions in the fields of food, drug or medicines and substances produced by chemical processes in accordance with India's obligations under the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).

(c) and (d) Representations have been received from industry

associations including pharmaceutical and chemical sectors on the proposed amendments. All views and concerns will be taken into consideration suitably before finalizing the said amendment.

Concerns of drug industry on patent law

999. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the drug industry has represented concerns against the patent law formulated recently by the competent authority;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the above concerns have been rectified;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether a high level independent Commission would be initiated to make recommendations on the patent issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (e) Representations have been received from industry associations including pharmaceutical industry concerning amendment to the Patents Act due from January 01, 2005 for introduction of product patent regime in the fields of food, chemicals and pharmaceuticals in terms of India's obligations under the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). All views and concerns will be taken into consideration suitably before finalizing the amendments in Patents Act, 1970.

Trade between India and China

†1000. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the turn-over of export and import trade between India and China during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the commodities exported to China; and

(c) the amount of revenue earned there-from?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.